

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY  
M E D I C A L E X A M I N E R D E P A R T M E N T  
NUMBER 1 ON BOB HOPE RD MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136 (305) 545-9400  
INVESTIGATION REPORT

M.E. CASE NO. 89-0997 A  
DATE APR/04/89

HERNANDEZ, BRENDA

21 WHITE FEMALE DOB JAN/20/68  
4432 N.W. 23RD COURT MIAMI UNINCORP. DADE, FLORIDA

PLACE OF DEATH: N.W. 46TH ST., & 23RD AVE., MIAMI UNINCORP. DADE, FLA.  
TIME OF DEATH: FOUND 3:30PM APR/04/89

INVESTIGATING AGENCY: METRO #167314-J/DET. CAPETILLO

INCIDENT LOCATION: N.W. 46TH ST. & 23RD AVE., MIAMI UNINCORP. DADE, FLA.  
APR/04/89 A.M. SCENE M.E.

HISTORY:

SRR

ACCORDING TO THE INITIAL POLICE INVESTIGATION: ON APRIL 4, 1989,  
ABT. 3:30P.M., THE DECEASED WAS FOUND D.O.A. IN A OPEN FEILD AT N.W. 46TH  
STREET AND 23RD AVENUE. SHE WAS NUDE FROM THE WAIST DOWN AND WAS WEARING  
WHAT APPEARED TO BE A NIGHT SHIRT.

CAUSE OF DEATH: BLUNT TRAUMA TO THE HEAD AND NECK.

MANNER: HOMICIDE DATE AUTOPSY APR/05/89 BY ARTHUR R. COPELAND MD

MORTUARY: GARCIA BRAKE

SRR

Name...HERNANDEZ, .Brenda.....Case No. 89-997

SCENE INVESTIGATION

DATE: April 4, 1989  
LOCATION: NW 46th St. & 23rd Avenue  
TIME ARRIVED AT SCENE: Approximately 5:30 p.m.  
POLICE AGENCY: Metro Dade Police Dept.  
LEAD INVESTIGATOR: Detective Decora

INITIAL INFORMATION:

According to police, the decedent was found at the above location in the northwest corner of a field and accordingly, police were summoned.

OBSERVATIONS OF SURROUNDINGS:

The scene is a field in a lower middle class to lower class neighborhood. In the northern corner, the decedent is lying face up dressed in a pullover smock and a bra with her legs spread apart. She is approximately 1-1/2 feet from a fence. It is a warm summer afternoon, visibility is good. The ground is dry.


OBSERVATIONS OF VICTIM(s):

The victim is a Caucasian female approximately 20 years of age. She is barefoot. She is dressed in a pullover smock and a bra, the bra is partially pulled up. There are abraded marks present adjacent to her neck and her face is congested.

SCENE IMPRESSION (INCLUDING PROBABLE CAUSE AND MANNER OF DEATH):

Asphyxia, homicide

NOTE: The foregoing is of a speculative nature and subject to modification pending additional information and investigation.



Arthur R. Copeland, M.D.  
Associate Medical Examiner

ARC:rf

WAGON 1710  
ARIZONA 1730

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY  
Office of the Medical Examiner  
INVESTIGATION REPORT

Police Case No. 167314-J

NAME OF THE DECEASED: BRENDA HERNANDEZ Age 21 Race M Sex F

Address 4432 NW 23 ST Date of Birth 01-20-68

Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Death Body Found AT NW 46 ST & 23 AVE

Death Occurred N/A 19\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ M. in the presence of N/A

or  
Found Dead 04-04 1989, 3<sup>30</sup> P.M. by MDD UNIFORM OFFICERS

Identified by \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time Viewed by Investigator 04-04 1989, 4<sup>30</sup> P.M. Medical Examiner at Scene COPELAND

HISTORY: (What happened just prior to death and when was victim last seen alive?) THE VICTIM WAS

DISCOVERED DECEASED IN THE OPEN FIELD AT NW 46 ST & 23 AVE.

THE VICTIM WAS NUDE FROM THE WAIST DOWN AND WAS WEARING

WHAT APPEARS TO BE A NIGHT SHIRT.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Possible manner of death HOMICIDE

If Violent Death: Date/Time of Incident \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ M. Weapon/Cal. UNK - POSS STRANGLED

Exact Location/Address of Incident NW 46 ST & 23 AVE (OPEN FIELD) At work NO  
(Specify Street, Parking Lot, Bar etc.)

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Clothing NIGHT SHIRT & BRA

Position/Location of Body: SUPINE IN OPEN FIELD

Lividity: Yes ☒ No \_\_\_\_\_ Consistent YES Body Heat: Warm: \_\_\_\_\_ Cool \_\_\_\_\_ Cold ☒

Rigor Mortis: None \_\_\_\_\_ Slight \_\_\_\_\_ Full ☒ Decomposition: None ☒ Slight \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced \_\_\_\_\_

Trauma: Yes ☒ No \_\_\_\_\_ Describe LIGATURE MARKS ABOUT THE NECK. VARIOUS

ABRASIONS AND INSECT BITES.

NAMES OF DOCTORS/HOSPITALS who attended deceased during life: UNKNOWN

NAME OF NEXT OF KIN: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Notified: Yes ☒ No \_\_\_\_\_

Valuables and Disposition NONE HANDLED Medication to M.E.: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ☒

Investigating Agency 30 Report Submitted by A. CADETILLO Date: 04-04 1989, 5<sup>30</sup> P.M.

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT  
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133  
(305) 545-2400

CASE INFORMATION

DATE

mo day yr.

time

M.E. Case #

4/5/89  
12<sup>15</sup>PM

89-997

COD

BLUNT TRAUMA  
TO THE HEAD  
AND NECK

MOD

HOMICIDE

HOW:

Dec'd beaten and  
strangled

WHEN

4/4/89 AM


ATC

MEMORANDUM

TO: MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE

DATE: April 18, 1989

SUBJECT: ME# 89-997

FROM: Robert Woodson   
Fingerprint Technician I  
Metro-Dade Police Department

The fingerprints obtained from the deceased ME# 89-997 have been identified with fingerprints of Hernandez, Brenda, W/F, DOB: 01-20-68, MDPD Jail# T89-1051, on file with the Metro-Dade Police Department, Case Number 167314-J.

RW/st



MEDICAL EXAMINERS DEPARTMENT  
1050 N.W. 19 STREET  
MIAMI, FLORIDA

CRIME SCENE SEARCH DETAIL

POLICE AGENCY MDPD

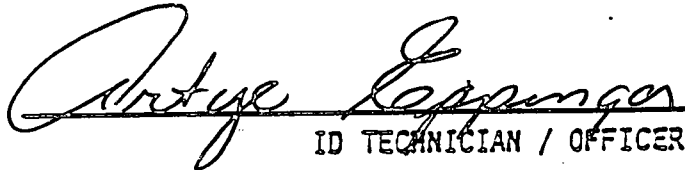
MEDICAL EXAMINER CASE # 89-0997 DATE 4/5/89  
POLICE (AGENCY) CASE # 167314-J/Capetill TIME 7:30 AM  
NAME OF DECEASED BRENDA HERNANDEZ

FOLLOW-UP PROCESSING COMPLETED:

( 1 ) FINGERPRINTING	( ) BLOOD STANDARD
( 1 ) PALM PRINTING	( ) NEUTRON ACTIVATION
( ) FINGERNAIL SCRAPINGS	( ) CLOTHING
( ) HAIR STANDARD COLLECTION	( ) PHOTOGRAPH

( ) OTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

  
ID TECHNICIAN / OFFICER

POSITIVE ID BY FINGERPRINTS MADE ON \_\_\_\_\_  
UNDER THE NAME OF \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
DOB \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CALLED BY \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY RECEIPT

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT  
Number One on Bob Hope Road  
Miami, Florida 33136-1133  
(305) 545-2400

M.E. CASE #

MEDICAL EXAMINER

(IF NOT KNOWN, USE UNK)

DECEDENT'S NAME:

AGE

RACE

SEX

TYPE OF CASE

POLICE AGENCY:

POLICE CASE #

ITEM NO.	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION (itemize currency by denomination)
1	1	RAPE KIT WITH BLOOD TUBE
2	1	RED TOP TUBE OF BLOOD
Last item		



**CAUTION**  
BIOHAZARDOUS MATERIAL

I hereby acknowledge that the above list represents all the property impounded by me in the official performance of my duty as a Medical Examiner, District 11.

ARTHUR COPELAND  
Print

Arthur Copeland  
Sign

DATE / TIME OBTAINED:

MO.

DAY

YR.

TIME

AM/PM.

I hereby acknowledge that the above list represents all property received by/from the Medical Examiner Department.

M.E. Courier:

Print

Sign

DATE / TIME OBTAINED:

M

D

Y

TIME

AM/PM.

Receiving Party:

M. DE CORA

Print

M. De Cora  
Sign

MDPD  
Agency

Date & Time Released:

MO.

DAY

YR.

TIME

AM/PM.

RECEIVED BY	PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
RECEIVED BY			REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
RECEIVED BY			REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
RECEIVED BY			REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED

(Cont'd on back)

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT  
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133  
(305) 545-2400

CASE INFORMATION

DATE 4 4 89  
mo. day yr.

4:20 PM  
time

M.E. Case # \_\_\_\_\_

Rec'd call  
DET. STEVE PARR  
MDPD

M.E. will be needed about 5:00 PM

46 St. West of NW. 23rd Ave

FEMALE IN FIELD

W/F - PANTIES OFF

BLOOD AROUND NECK

4:54 PM  
DR. COPRIANO CONTACTED - WILL RESPOND  
ETA 30 - 40 MINUTES

5:15 PM / wagon  
Kew



# PROPERTY RECEIPT

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT  
 Number One on Bob Hope Road  
 Miami, Florida 33136-1133  
 (305) 545-2400

M.E. CASE # 89-997  
 MEDICAL EXAMINER Aze

(IF NOT KNOWN, USE UNK)

DECEDENT'S NAME: BRENDA HERNANDEZ

AGE 21 RACE W SEX F TYPE OF CASE Homicide

POLICE AGENCY: MDPD POLICE CASE # 167314-J

ITEM NO.	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION (itemize currency by denomination)
01	01	MULTI-COLORED SHIRT
02	01	BRA
		LAST ITEM

I hereby acknowledge that the above list represents all the property impounded by me in the official performance of my duty as a Medical Examiner, District 11.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Sign  
 DATE / TIME OBTAINED: \_\_\_\_\_ AM./PM.  
 MO. DAY YR. TIME

I hereby acknowledge that the above list represents all property received by/from the Medical Examiner Department.

M.E. Courier: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Sign  
 DATE / TIME OBTAINED: \_\_\_\_\_ AM./PM.  
 M D Y TIME  
 Receiving Party: M. DeCora MDDP  
 Print Agency  
 Date & Time Released: 04 05 89 1200 AM  
 MO. DAY YR. TIME

RECEIVED BY	PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
RECEIVED BY			REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
RECEIVED BY			REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
RECEIVED BY			REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED

[illegible]

# PROPERTY RECEIPT

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT  
Number One on Bob Hope Road  
Miami, Florida 33136-1133  
(305) 545-2400

M.E. CASE # 89-997  
MEDICAL EXAMINER ARE

(IF NOT KNOWN, USE UNK)

DECEDENT'S NAME: BRENDA HERNANDEZ

AGE 21 RACE W SEX F TYPE OF CASE HOMICIDE

POLICE AGENCY: MDPD POLICE CASE # 167314-J

ITEM NO.	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION (itemize currency by denomination)
<u>01</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>MULTI COLORED SHIRT</u>
<u>102</u>	<u>01</u>	<u>BRA</u>
		<u>LAST ITEM</u>

I hereby acknowledge that the above list represents all the property impounded by me in the official performance of my duty as a Medical Examiner, District 11.

Print

Sign

DATE / TIME OBTAINED: \_\_\_\_\_  
MO. DAY YR.

AM./PM.

TIME

I hereby acknowledge that the above list represents all property received by/from the Medical Examiner Department.

M.E. Courier: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print

Sign

DATE / TIME OBTAINED: \_\_\_\_\_  
M D Y

AM./PM.

TIME

Receiving Party: M. DE CORA  
Print

[Signature]

MDPD  
Agency

Date & Time Released: 04 05 89  
MO. DAY YR.

12 01 AM/PM.  
TIME

RECEIVED BY	PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
RECEIVED BY			REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
RECEIVED BY			REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED
RECEIVED BY			REASON	DATE AND TIME RECEIVED

(Cont'd on back)

[illegible]

Bernardo Garcia-Brake  
Funeral Home Corporation  
8215 S.W. 40 Street, Miami, Florida 33155  
226-1010



Bernardo Garcia-Brake  
Funeral Home, Inc.  
4100 N.W. 7th Street, Miami, Florida 33126  
649-1010

Bernardo Garcia Funeral Home  
865 West 49th Street, Hialeah, Florida 33012  
557-1010

Miami, Florida

19

4-5-89

To:

Medical Examiners.

I hereby authorize you to release the remains of

Grinda Hernandez.

to the Funeraria Latina Bernardo Garcia-Brake Funeral Home for embalming and professional services necessary to initiate funeral arrangements.

Autorizo a que hagan entrega a la Funeraria Latina Bernardo Garcia-Brake Funeral Home de los restos mortales de mi: Dya

a los fines de que puedan iniciar su embalsamamiento y arreglos fúnebres.

My relationship to the deceased is:

mother

Mi parentesco con el fallecido (a) es:

madre.

Witness  
Testigo

Signature  
Firma

x Mercedes Glover

609 NW 2st

Address  
Dirección

Address  
Dirección

45545-9027

Phone  
Teléfono

Phone  
Teléfono

MHW-1

"MAS COMPRENSION HUMANA"

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT  
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133  
(305) 545-2400

DECEASED'S VALUABLES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY RECORD

NAME OF DECEASED HERNANDEZ, BRENDA M.E. CASE NO. 89-997  
TIME 5:46pm DATE 4/4/89  
AGE 21 RACE M SEX F HEIGHT 5-9  
WEIGHT (with clothes) 165 (without clothes) \_\_\_\_\_ (with wet clothes) \_\_\_\_\_  
FINGERPRINTED: YES ✓ NO \_\_\_\_\_

MALE

CLOTHES

FEMALE

SHOES \_\_\_\_\_ SOCKS \_\_\_\_\_  
JACKET \_\_\_\_\_ SWEATER \_\_\_\_\_  
TIE \_\_\_\_\_ SHIRT \_\_\_\_\_  
TROUSERS \_\_\_\_\_ SHORTS \_\_\_\_\_ BELT \_\_\_\_\_  
UNDERSHIRT \_\_\_\_\_ T SHIRT \_\_\_\_\_ UNDERSHORTS \_\_\_\_\_  
PAJAMAS \_\_\_\_\_  
DENTURES: U. \_\_\_\_\_ L. \_\_\_\_\_ TRUSS \_\_\_\_\_  
MISCELLANEOUS \_\_\_\_\_

SHOES \_\_\_\_\_ STOCKING \_\_\_\_\_ SOCKS \_\_\_\_\_  
COAT \_\_\_\_\_ SWEATER \_\_\_\_\_ JACKET \_\_\_\_\_  
DRESS \_\_\_\_\_ BLOUSE ✓ SKIRT \_\_\_\_\_  
SHORTS \_\_\_\_\_ SLACKS \_\_\_\_\_  
SLIP \_\_\_\_\_ PANTIES \_\_\_\_\_ CORSET \_\_\_\_\_ BRA ✓  
PAJAMAS \_\_\_\_\_ GOWN \_\_\_\_\_  
DENTURES: U. \_\_\_\_\_ L. \_\_\_\_\_  
MISCELLANEOUS \_\_\_\_\_

VALUABLES

(List all money, jewelry, keys, personal papers & other valuables)

NONE

RECEIVED BY [Signature] MORGUE ATTENDANT WITNESS [Signature]

REMOVED FROM M.E. OFFICE BY

BODY ARNANDO ARELO REPRESENTING BENJAMIN GARCIA DATE 4-5-89 TIME 3:30

CLOTHES \_\_\_\_\_ REPRESENTING \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_

VALUABLES \_\_\_\_\_ REPRESENTING \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_


OPEN

THE DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida

Name..HERNANDEZ,.Brenda...April.5,1989..10:35.a.m...Case No. 89-997

CAUSE OF DEATH:

Blunt Trauma To Head And Neck

  
Arthur R. Copeland, M.D.  
Associate Medical Examiner

Date: 4/6/89

ARC:rf

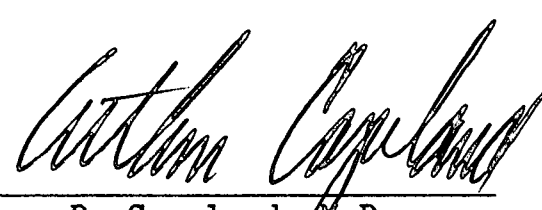
METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY  
MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT  
Number One on Bob Hope Road, Miami, Florida 33136

TOXICOLOGY REPORT

HERNANDEZ, BRENDA

M.E. CASE NO. 89-0997

<u>SUBSTANCE</u>	<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>RESULT</u>
ETHANOL	BLOOD	0.16%
ETHANOL	OCULAR FLUID	0.20%
BENZOYLECGONINE	URINE	DETECTED
BENZOYLECGONINE	SERUM	0.70mg/L
COCAINE	URINE	DETECTED
COCAINE	BLOOD	1.26mg/L
COCAETHYLENE	BLOOD	DETECTED

  
Arthur R. Copeland, M.D.  
Associate Medical Examiner

Date

5/27/89  
KHA



THE DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida

Name..HERNANDEZ,.Brenda...April.5,1989..10:35.a.m...Case No. 89-997

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

The body is that of a normally developed, normally nourished white female appearing the stated age of 21 years, measuring 5 feet 4 inches on length and weighing 165 pounds. The scalp hair is brown, the eyes are brown, the conjunctivae are congested. A rare petechial hemorrhage is observed. The nose and nasal septum are unremarkable. The teeth are natural and in fair condition. There is a 3 inch scar on the midline of the abdomen and there are stretch marks on the anterior surface of the abdomen. There is marked ant activity present on both lower extremities in the knees, the ankles, and the groin and marked ant activity is observed on the exterior surfaces of both arms and forearms. Insect activity is observed in and about the head and neck region, predominantly on the right side.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY

There is a 5 x 2 inch area of dried abrasion on the left side of the jaw. There is a 1/4 inch laceration at the lateral aspect of the chin adjacent to the mandible. There is a 5 x 7 inch area of dried abrasion on the anterior aspect of the chest and lower neck. There is a 1/4 inch abrasion on the knuckle surface of the ring finger of the left hand.

Examination of the neck region reveals multiple areas of hemorrhage, predominantly in the left sternocleidomastoid muscle and, to a slight degree, in the deep musculature on the right side of the neck anteriorly. Petechial hemorrhages which are confluent are observed within the vocal cord region. The hyoid bone is intact. Examination of the posterior aspect of the neck reveals 10 cubic centimeter areas of hemorrhage, predominantly at the back of the neck and on the left lower and right side of the neck. Examination of the spinal cord reveals no areas of hemorrhage or contusion. There are 5 cubic centimeters of subarachnoid hemorrhage on the inferior surface of both temporal lobes and there are 5 cubic centimeter areas of hemorrhage in the left temporalis muscle. No skull fracture is observed, however. No fractures of the long bones or ribs are observed.

INTERNAL EDXAMINATION:

There is no blood, fluid, or adhesion in either chest cavity, pericrdial sac, or peritoneal cavity.

THE DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida

Name..HERNANDEZ,.Brenda...April.5,1989..10:35.a.m...Case No. 89-997

The tan-brown heart weighs 310 grams. The epicardial surface is smooth and shiny, there is a normal amount of subepicardial fat. The cardiac valves are thin and pliable. The myocardium is firm and tan-brown. There are no areas of necrosis or scarring. Examination of the coronary arteries reveals they are widely patent averaging 99% luminal patency. Minimal atheromatous plaque is observed. Examination of the aorta reveals a minimal degree of atheroamtous plaque.

The larynx, trachea, and mainstem bronchi are remarkable exteriorly in that there are multiple areas of hemorrhage in the strap muscles of the neck, 20 cubic centimeters in aggregate dimension. The hyoid bone is intact. There are multiple areas of petechial hemorrhage observed in the vocal cord region.

The right and left lungs weigh 630 and 590 grams respectively, both are mottled purplish tan-gray. Minimal anthracotic pigment deposition is observed exteriorly. The cut surfaces reveal dark tannish red parenchyma with a frothy tan fluid readily exudable from all lobes of the lung. No area of consolidation is observed, no emboli are apparent.

The esophagus, stomach, small and large bowel and appendix are all present and unremarkable exteriorly. The mucosal surfaces of the esophagus, stomach, first portion of the duodenum and the rectum are unremarkable. There is no evidence of tumor, polyp, obstruction or ulceration. The stomach contains an estimated 100 cubic centimeters of partially formed food fragments with an aromatic odor. These stop at the pylorus.

The tan-brown liver weighs 2280 grams. The exterior surface is smooth, the capsule is intact. The cut surface reveals dark reddish brown parenchyma without focal lesion. The gallbladder and biliary system are unremarkable.

The purple-blue spleen weighs 160 grams. The exterior surface is smooth, the capsule is intact. The cut surface reveals a normal trabeculated appearance. Lymphoid follicles are not increased.

The pancreas, adrenals, and thyroid gland are normal.

The right and left kidneys weigh 170 and 180 grams respectively, both are mottled purplish tan-brown. The exterior surface is smooth, the cut surface reveals adequate cortex. The pelves, ureters, arteries, and veins are all unremarkable. The bladder contains an estimated 50 cubic centimeters of clear urine. The bladder mucosa, uterus, tubes, and ovaries are all present and unremarkable for the decedent's age. There is no evidence of pregnancy. There are no signs of trauma to the vagina, however, there is a 1 cubic centimeter area of hemorrhage observed in the rectal mucosa.

THE DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida

Name..HERNANDEZ,.Brenda...April.5,1989..10:35.a.m...Case No. 89-997

There are areas of hemorrhage in the left temporalis muscles, as previously observed. There is no skull fracture. There is no epidural or subdural hemorrhage. There is subarachnoid hemorrhage on the inferior surface of both temporal lobes, otherwise the brain is unremarkable. The brain weighs 1450 grams. Both cerebral hemispheres, the cerebral parenchyma, brain stem, cerebellum, and circle of Willis are all unremarkable.

Examination of the tongue reveals 2 cubic centimeters of hemorrhage at its tip.

Examination of the spinal cord reveals no areas of hemorrhage or contusion. The bone marrow is of adequate quantity. No fracture of the spinal column is observed.

AUTOPSY FINDINGS:

1. Asphyxia
  - a. Hemorrhage in the strap muscles of the neck
  - b. Petechial hemorrhages in vocal cord region
2. Bilateral pulmonary congestion and edema
3. Multiple areas of abrasions
4. Multiple areas of hemorrhage, posterior aspect of neck
5. Subarachnoid hemorrhage, inferior temporal lobe of brain



Arthur R. Copeland, M.D.  
Associate Medical Examiner

ARC:rf

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT  
1050 N.W. 19th Street  
Miami, Florida 33136

Full Body, Female, anterior and posterior views

Name

*Hernandez, Brenda*

Autopsy No.

*89-997*

Age

*21*

Race

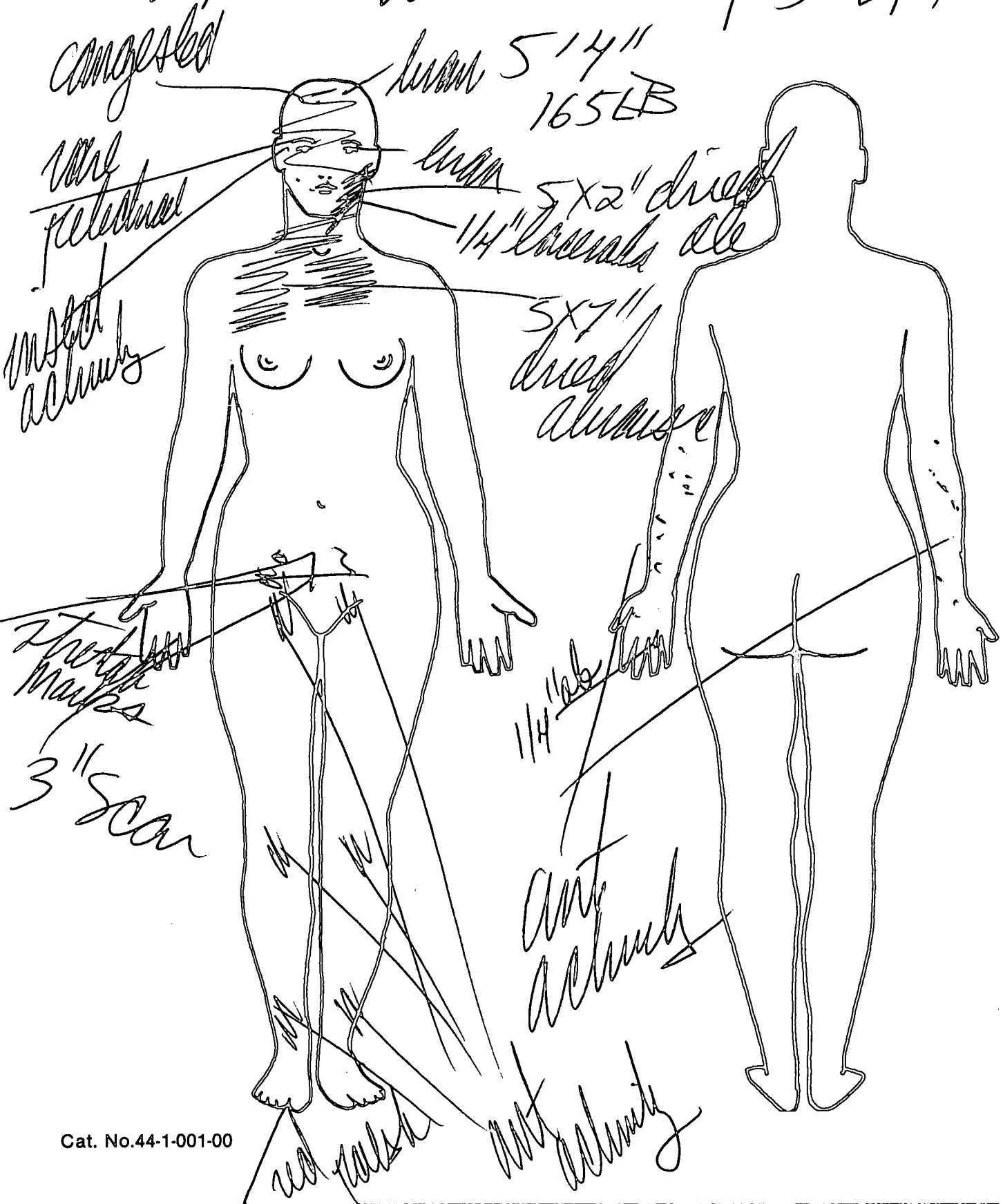
*W*

Sex

*F*

Date

*4.5.89 10:35 AM*



DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT  
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133  
(305) 545-2400

CASE INFORMATION

DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
mo. day yr. time

89-0997  
M.E. Case #

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1989

THE MIAMI HERALD

SECTION B

# Dead women had links to rapist

By DONNA GEHRKE  
Herald Staff Writer

Where Charles Henry Williams went, women died.

Four were killed near his family home in Overtown. A fifth was a neighbor. Four more died in a North Dade prostitution zone where the tall baby-faced 32-year-old used to wander. Two others were found just outside the area. And two were murdered in a Brownsville neighborhood where he used to smoke crack.

Williams tells police it's coincidence.

Homicide detectives think it's a pattern.

Police say the convicted rapist is a suspect in these 13 slayings and five others, which date back more than two years. They called a press conference 2 1/4 months ago to announce their suspicion. But they haven't yet charged



*Convicted rapist Charles Henry Williams, left, says connections to the dead women are a coincidence. Police see a pattern, but they haven't charged Williams with murder.*

Williams with murder.

The killings stopped once Williams was jailed last April on two unrelated rape charges.

"He's the best thing we've got," said Metro homicide Sgt. Frank Wesolowski, who

heads his department's investigation into 11 of the deaths. "He is the No. 1 suspect."

In recent weeks, The Herald has found more links to Williams and the deaths. Court records and interviews with police, witnesses and victims' families show:

■ At least three victims were seen with Williams on the day they died.

■ Two women who pressed the current rape charges against Williams say he tried to choke them to death in Brownsville — the same neighborhood where two victims died, within the same few weeks.

■ Another woman filed attempted-murder charges against Williams for a choking attack just hours after she had introduced him to one of her friends — who later was found murdered.

■ Williams frequented the same places — a crack den, a prostitution zone — that several of the victims did.

Williams is scheduled to go to trial next week on the two rape charges. The trial might

PLEASE SEE WILLIAMS, 3B

# 3 victims were seen with rapist the day they died

WILLIAMS, FROM 1B

be postponed to give Williams' new court-appointed attorney, Howard Landau, a chance to prepare a defense.

Landau, who helped win an acquittal for Williams in a 1986 rape trial, won't comment on the case or the homicide investigation. Nor will he allow his client to speak to The Herald.

In statements to police, Williams has denied killing the women.

Born in Georgia, he grew up in a neatly kept Overtown townhouse with his mother, brother and sisters.

By 1986, he had been accused of seven rapes — including assaults on two 15-year-old schoolgirls — and was profiled in The Herald as a career criminal who knew how to plea bargain and beat the system.

His accusers describe the same modus operandi: He starts with sweet talk and suddenly turns vicious as he chokes his victims unconscious.

Two years ago when Williams was out of jail, young women started dying mysteriously in his Overtown neighborhood. They were found almost nude, their legs spread and no visible trauma.

Miami cops were puzzled. Initial autopsies turned up a new theory — later debunked by Medical Examiner Joe Davis — that the women died because they combined sex and co-



**VICTIM:** Brenda Hernandez was seen with Williams the day she was strangled.

caine once too often.

They were well-known in the Overtown neighborhood as heavy crack-users.

So was Williams.

"He'd say, 'I've got money. Let's get drugs,'" remembered neighbor Audrey Salles.

One of Williams' teen-age neighbors took him up on the offer in April 1988 — and was found dead hours later, said the victim's best friend, Aida Rodriguez, 17.

She said Williams offered her and 16-year-old Sharmanita Grays "some weed" when they went to the Bay Point Motel, 3530 Biscayne Blvd. Later, Rodriguez left her friend with a heavily perspiring, crack-using Williams who wouldn't let her back into the room.

That's the last time Rodriguez saw Grays alive. Her body was found hours later sprawled, legs apart and nearly nude, on a stairwell at the motel.

Rodriguez told Miami homicide investigators her suspicions. Miami police have since refused to discuss the case.

Since then, two other victims were seen with Williams on their last day.

In October 1988, Williams sought sex from prostitute Erica Edwards on the night she died near the hooker zone on Northwest 79th Street, said witness Beverly Gunder James.

She said Williams, identifying himself as "Tony," approached her on Oct. 22, 1988, at the Tropicana Bar, 1057 NW 79th St.

"He came out of the bushes," James said in a telephone interview.

"He asked me where I was going, and I said to the bar. He asked if I 'dated' (slang for hooking), and I said no. He asked if I smoked cocaine and I said no. He asked me if I knew anyone who did.

"I said yes — Erica."

She said she then introduced him

to Edwards.

"I said, 'Erica, this is Tony. He seems like a nice guy. Be nice to him.'"

The next morning, Edwards' body was discovered in a nearby field. She had been dead for hours.

That same day, James told police, Williams grabbed her from behind and choked her. "He picked me off the ground and put a hook on me and I couldn't spring loose," she said.

"The man was on top of me," she added. "I was on my stomach."

A neighbor saw the attack and scared him off, she said.

Five days later — and after three more women had been found dead in the area — James spotted Williams at a friend's house near the hooker zone.

Metro police arrested him there on attempted second-degree murder charges.

He was released in early December after prosecutors dropped the case. They couldn't find James. She moved to Oklahoma soon after the assault.

Five months later, Williams was seen with victim Brenda Hernandez on the day she was strangled in an open field in Brownsville, police told her mother, Mercedes Hernandez.

The victim had lived just a few blocks from a crack den near J & J Groceries at 2656 NW 46th St. where Williams hung out.

Two other victims, Barbara Ann

Black and Barbara Lattimore, hung out at the same crack den, several witnesses said. "He liked the girls," remembered store owner John Bennett.

Williams was arrested at the crack den when he tried to run from detectives investigating Hernandez's murder.

While canvassing the neighborhood for witnesses, detectives ran into a woman who said Williams had raped her in the same neighborhood two weeks earlier.

She said she was initially fooled by his appearance. "A clean-cut guy," she noted.

She agreed to Williams' offer: \$10, two cocaine rocks and half a pound of marijuana for sex. The next thing she knew, he was choking her and forcing her to have sex.

"The man chokes you like he intends to kill you. It's not a choke where he's playing with you at all. He wants to kill you," she said in a

sworn statement.

"The look on the guy's face — it totally changed from that nice personality, nice gentleman, hard-working gentleman to a damn maniac," she testified.

Metro detectives charged Williams with rape.

Within a week, Miami police followed with another rape charge. A woman from Brownsville accused Williams of choking and raping her in March.

Since early April, Williams has been in jail, lately in solitary.

"He's there for his own protection based on his notoriety," said Dade Jail Lt. Jim Wood.

Williams passes his days watching TV or talking to another prisoner — Charlie Street, accused killer of two Metro officers.

Williams has impressed Lt. Wood with his politeness and quiet demeanor. "He seems calm and content."

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT  
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133  
PHONE (305) 545-2400 FAX (305) 545-2418**

**INVESTIGATION REPORT**

**M.E. Case #: 89-0997**

**DATE: APR/04/1989**

**TYPE: A**

**HERNANDEZ, BRENDA (AKA)**

**SS#:**

**21 YEAR(S)**

**WHITE**

**FEMALE**

**D.O.B. JAN/20/1968**

**4432 N.W. 23RD COURT MIAMI UNINCORP. DADE, FLORIDA**

**PLACE OF DEATH: N.W. 46TH ST., & 23RD AVE., MIAMI UNINCORP. DADE, FLA.**

**TIME OF DEATH: FOUND 3:30PM APR/04/1989**

**INVESTIGATING AGENCY: MIAMI-DADE 167314-J/D**

**INCIDENT LOCATION: N.W. 46TH ST. & 23RD AVE., MIAMI UNINCORP. DADE, FLA.  
APR/04/1989 NOT ASSIGNED**

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**ACCORDING TO THE INITIAL POLICE INVESTIGATION: ON APRIL 4, 1989, ABT. 3:30P.M., THE DECEASED WAS FOUND D.O.A. IN A OPEN FEILD AT N.W. 46TH STREET AND 23RD AVENUE. SHE WAS NUDE FROM THE WAIST DOWN AND WAS WEARING WHAT APPEARED TO BE A NIGHT SHIRT.**

---

**CAUSE OF DEATH: BLUNT TRAUMA TO THE HEAD AND NECK.**

**MANNER: HOMICIDE**

**AUTOPSY**

**APR/05/1989**

**DOCTOR: ARC**

**MORTUARY: GARCIA BRAKE**

**INVESTIGATOR: RAY, SANDRA R.**

**THIS REPORT MAY CONTAIN NON-VERIFIED INFORMATION  
AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY  
M E D I C A L E X A M I N E R D E P A R T M E N T  
NUMBER 1 ON BOB HOPE RD MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136 (305) 545-9400  
INVESTIGATION REPORT

M.E. CASE NO. 89-0997 A  
DATE APR/04/89

HERNANDEZ, BRENDA  
21 WHITE FEMALE DOB JAN/20/68  
4432 N.W. 23RD COURT MIAMI UNINCORP. DADE, FLORIDA

PLACE OF DEATH: N.W. 46TH ST., & 23RD AVE., MIAMI UNINCORP. DADE, FLA.  
TIME OF DEATH: FOUND 3:30PM APR/04/89

INVESTIGATING AGENCY: METRO #167314-J/DET. CAPETILLO

INCIDENT LOCATION: N.W. 46TH ST. & 23RD AVE., MIAMI UNINCORP. DADE, FLA.  
APR/04/89 A.M. SCENE M.E.

HISTORY:

SRR

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CAUSE OF DEATH: BLUNT TRAUMA TO THE HEAD AND NECK.

MANNER: HOMICIDE DATE AUTOPSY APR/05/89 BY ARTHUR R. COPELAND MD

MORTUARY: GARCIA BRAKE

SRR



Nov. 6, 1989

Miami Herald

89-0997

## Suspect is linked to 19th slaying

By DONNA GEHRKE  
Herald Staff Writer

Charles Henry Williams, already the prime suspect in the slayings of 18 inner-city women, has been linked to the murder of another: a



20-year-old who, like three other victims, was "seen" with him on her last day alive.

Sandra Jackson, only four foot eight and 84 pounds, was alone with six-foot-three Williams, a convicted rapist known for choking his victims, on March 23 after the two had visited with Jackson's cousin. Her body was found the next day in a wooded vacant lot at Northwest 13th Place and 38th Street.

Williams "was one of the last individuals seen with her alive," said

PLEASE SEE WILLIAMS, 2B

# Convicted rapist linked to 19th slaying

WILLIAMS, FROM 1B

Tony Rodriguez, Miami homicide detective.

Like many of the 18 other victims, Jackson was found nude and asphyxiated in Northwest Dade, lying on her back with her legs spread. Homicide detectives believe Williams, a baby-faced former maintenance worker, may be responsible for the 19 slayings — and perhaps more — because the methods of murder are strikingly similar.

"We've never had this many that seemed to fall into a pattern," said Dr. Joseph Davis, Dade's medical examiner.

Williams, 33, has been in the Dade County Jail for the past six months but has not been charged in any of the murders. He was charged with two counts of rape unrelated to the slayings. Metro and Miami homicide detectives say they don't have enough proof — even though he first murder came under investigation more than a year ago.

Williams has admitted to police that he knew some of the victims, but he has steadfastly denied killing anyone.

The slayings stopped once Williams was jailed in early April on the rape charges.

The first of the 19 victims — 18 of them black and one Hispanic — was found dead in July 1987.

Jackson was victim No. 15. The bodies of four other women were found before Williams was arrested in early April. Miami police did not disclose Jackson's connection to Williams and the other homicide victims until detectives recently gave depositions in court.

Jackson, a former cook in a sandwich shop, went by the name Sonia because she hated her given name. "She was my sweet baby," said her boyfriend Kirk Stevens, the father of her 2-year-old son, also named Kirk.

Like many of the other 18 victims, Jackson was a drug addict "doing tricks for crack," her family told investigators. Just before her murder, she was desperately trying to break her

crack habit, said Vincent Lawrence, a distant relative who unsuccessfully tried to find a rehabilitation program for her. "I couldn't find anything free for her," he said.

On March 24, a man working in his yard found Jackson's strangled body next door in an overgrown lot in the Brownsville neighborhood. A brown coat covered her nude body. Her shoes were found nearby.

In the next 11 days, four more bodies of women were found. Two of them had been badly beaten and strangled, as Jackson was.

On March 26, the body of Angela Williams, 23, was found in an open field at Northwest 21st Avenue and 68th Street. The killer had beaten her face, breaking her jaw and teeth.

A week later, in another vacant lot at Northwest 23rd Avenue and 46th Street, children found the body of Brenda Hernandez, 24, whose chest and neck were battered like Jackson's.

Williams was picked up near the Hernandez murder site by homicide detectives a day after the body was found.

As in Jackson's case, witnesses saw Williams with Hernandez on the last day of her life.

Jailers later found scratches on Williams' back and fresh bite marks on his penis.

Metro homicide detective Joseph McMahon said Williams readily talked to homicide detectives.

Investigators said Williams told them he had been with some of the victims — but they were alive when he left them.

He said people in the neighborhood who say he is the murderer are picking on him. They didn't like him, Williams complained.

From canvassing Brownsville after the murders, police found at least two women who said they had survived attacks by Williams. The investigators and the alleged victims described the attacks in recent depositions.

One, an admitted prostitute, told McMahon that she had been raped and choked to unconsciousness in March by a man known on the streets as "Bumper" or "Bump."

McMahon showed her a Polaroid of Williams.

That's him, she said. She said she hadn't gone to police sooner because she didn't think officers "give a damn about street hookers or prostitutes," McMahon said in a deposition.

The second victim said she was raped by Williams in the Brownsville neighborhood on March 18, six days before Jackson's body was found.

"She said at first he had grabbed her in a choke hold, putting his arm around her neck," Miami homicide detective Frank Castillo said in a deposition. "She said that he had her under control. She couldn't get away from him. The harder she would try to push away, the tighter the choke would get around her neck."

The two women pressed rape charges against Williams. He is scheduled to go to trial Nov. 13. But the trial is likely to be postponed — for a third time. Prosecutor Dennis Siegel is planning to be out of the state that week to attend a seminar.

Meanwhile, police remain close-mouthed about the homicide investigation.

Williams' defense attorney, Howard Landau, believes homicide investigators are now conducting genetic DNA tests to see if they can trace back to Williams any body fluids found on the victims. The tests are usually done to connect rapists to their victims, usually through semen.

Despite Landau's objections, the Dade state attorney's office recently obtained a court order to take blood and saliva samples from Williams.

Miami homicide detective Rodriguez wouldn't talk about the genetic tests. "We're following up every avenue that's available to us that can assist us in these investigations," he said.

Rodriguez and John Farrell, Metro chief of detectives, said officers have pursued dozens of leads without the breakthrough they were counting on.

"Unfortunately, we haven't been able to put together anything of significance," Rodriguez said. "It's just a shame. It's a tragedy. I really feel that somebody out there saw or heard something that could help us solve at least one of these cases."

"Serial killers don't stop killing," he said. "They either get arrested, they die or they move somewhere and continue."

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT  
NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133  
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CASE INFORMATION

DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
mo. day yr.

time

M.E. Case #

5/10/89 89-997

HISTOLOGY

LIVER - CONGESTION

UTEROS - NO EVIDENCE

OF PREGNANCY

LUNG - CONGESTION

SPINAL CORD - CONGESTION

SPLEEN - CONGESTION

BRAIN (HIPPOCAMPUS) - CONGESTION

EDGE OF CERVIX / VAGINA - NORMAL

KIDNEY - CONGESTION

COLON - CONGESTION, AUTOLYSIS

THYROID / MM - HEMORRHAGE

HEART - CONGESTION

ATC

To Buzz

89-997

Tox to date?

Hernandez

As of 5-16-89

Blood Alcohol - 0.16% Ethanol

(Blood NOT described  
in Tox. Request)

Ocular Fluid Alcohol - 0.20% Ethanol

Urine Drug Screens - Cocaine

DETECTED

Benzoyllecgonine

"

Nicotine / Metab.

"

Blood Basic Drug Screens - Cocaine Detected

Serum Benzoyllecgonine - 0.70 mg/L

Blood Cocaine - 1.26 mg/L

Final Report being processed now!

## Already Classified as Homicide

- 1 88-3093 Black, B.
- 2 89-243 Spivey, A
- 3 89-906 Williams, A
- 4 89-997 Hernandez, B

## Well preserved - not decomposed bodies

- 1 87-2006 Samuels, W
- 2 87-2017 Taylor, M
- 3 87-2633 Rozier, E
- 4 88-1055 Gray, S
- 5 88-3075 Edwards, S
- 6 88-3119 Lathimore, D
- 7 88-3575 Burns, A
- 8 89-323 Stewart, L
- 9 89-981 Gooden, P

## Decomposed or insect altered bodies - including skeletons

- 1 86-2512 Turner, T
- 2 88-2596 Henderson, J
- 3 88-2637 Johnson, L
- 4 88-3118 Rolfe, R
- 5 89-346 Harris, V
- 6 89-883 Bodie, C

CASE REVIEW  
J. H. DAVIS, M.D.

NAME : Hernandez, Brenda  
Age/Race: 21 W  
Date Found: 4/4/89  
Coordinates: NW 23 Ave 46 St.  
Site Character: Open field  
Position: Supine legs spread  
Clothing/Cover: Pull over sweater <sup>ebony</sup> genitalia exposed, barefoot  
Preservation Status:  
Photos Eyes: Yes Ruse petechia  
" Lips: No  
" Ext. Neck: Yes  
" Int. Neck: Yes ) severe blunt trauma  
Cocaine Blood: 1.26 mg/L Benzoylce 0.7 mg/L  
" Other:  
Alcohol: 0.16 mmol/L  
Other Drug:

EVIDENCE FOR  
HOMICIDE

Abandoned ♀

Abused ♀

Sex

Severe blunt trauma

ACCIDENT

Cocaine

But

last time she died!

Page 1012